

Matt and Angel

Adventures in China

任生和天使在中国



May 21, 2011

Where in China are Matt and Angel?



Rejoice With Us:

- We have heard back from several schools that want to hire us!
- The L-RD is stretching and growing us as we trust Him through this transitional time.

Ask With Us:

- There are still some details of our teaching placements that need to be solidified. Ask for favor with all concerned parties as we proceed.
- Moving is stressful, and even more so as we head to a different continent. We are asking the L-RD for peace and joy, even as we are overwhelmed with preparations and leaving loved ones and familiar places.
- Angel's aunt Jen has been in the hospital for several months battling serious health issues. Ask for her healing and for strength for the family.

Why are you going to China? Isn't it risky?

We first started dating when we studied in China for three months while we were juniors at Wheaton College. Angel had already been to China once before and loved it. Matt had always been interested in China because of his heritage and his love of martial arts. So when he visited China for the first time, he also fell in love with it.

Since that time, we have always had a desire to return to China. We got married in August 2009 and the following year, we began looking at options that would allow us to return to China.

As we pursued various options, we were connected with a faith-based non-profit group in China that connects believers with opportunities to serve in China. This organization is a non-profit group, not a mission-agency. That means that we will not be pretending to work and study, while actually engaging in explicit religious activities.

Rather, we will simply be believers who are living and working in

China. It is acceptable for us to practice our faith personally (through personal devotions, attending church, etc.) and it is also legal for us to respond within relational contexts to questions and conversations about faith.

It is not legal for us to use the classroom as a pulpit, to force students to hear about our faith, or to engage in any activities that are seen as undermining to the government's authorities. (i.e. to hold a large X-ian rally).

You've probably noticed that we have edited some words in this newsletter. So you may be wondering, "If what you're doing in China is perfectly legal, why the sneakiness?"

While we are indeed doing everything in our power to operate humbly and respectfully in China, it is also a reality that situations can be misconstrued. As we cross between cultures and languages, we realize that nuances can be lost, so it is our

preference to avoid all appearances of misbehavior. Censorship can be a difficult thing for us in America to understand, since freedom of speech is such a treasured part of our history.

But in China, the reality is that the government will be watching us for signs of disobedience. Therefore, we will do our best to make our communications with people in the US appropriate and as "under the radar" as possible.

We ask that you also do the same. In particular, please avoid mentioning politically sensitive issues in China and any blatant religious activities. If you have any questions about this, feel free to ask us while we are in the US, and we can give you examples of appropriate ways to address certain topics.

What will you be doing in China?

When we first arrive, we will meet up with a group of believers from the US in Hong Kong. We will be helping to run an English camp with them for two weeks in July in a city called Nanning.

After the English camp ends, we will travel to the city where we will be teaching English in a university for the 2011/2012 school year. As of right now, we are still uncertain which city we will be teaching in, but the most likely place will be Tianjin. We have received job offers from a few different universities in various cities in China, so we ask for your prayers as we finalize the details of the selection process.

We will be earning a salary as full-time teachers, as well as receiving free housing, so we shouldn't have any problems covering our daily living expenses.

However, since we are going to China under the umbrella of a non-profit organization, we can still raise support, in case we face any

emergencies that require more funding than we will bring in as teachers.

If you would like to make tax-deductible donations to support us, you can write checks to "Jian Hua Foundation." Please do NOT include our names on the check anywhere. Attached to this email is a printable note to send with your check so they know that it should be used for our support. You can mail support checks to:

Naomi Morris
JHF-USA
602 Shoemaker Ave.
Jenkintown, PA 19046-2132

Thank you in advance for your support and prayers! It is a surreal feeling to finally be going to China after years of waiting and praying. We are deeply grateful for the role you have all played in our lives, and we are excited to keep you updated on our adventures in China!

Survey Time with Matt and Angel

Give one word that describes China:
Matt - "Complicated"
Angel - "Exciting"

One word that describes moving to China:
Matt - "Exciting"
Angel - "Complicated"

What will you miss most about the US?
Matt - "Family and friends"
Angel - "Familiarity"

What are you most looking forward to in China?
Matt - "Fish"
Angel - "Making new friends"

A book you're reading now:
Matt - "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris"
Angel - "Lincoln by Gore Vidal"

Music you're listening to:
Matt - "Bruno Mars and Glee"
Angel - "Kirk Franklin"

"Have not I commanded you? Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the L-rd your G-d is with you wherever you go."

-Joshua 1:9